Calendar No. 181

98TH CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 98-119

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATIONS

MAY 16, 1983.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DURENBERGER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1292]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, reports an original bill (S. 1292), to authorize appropriations for environmental research, development, and demonstrations for the fiscal year 1984 and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

As reported, the bill authorizes $300,000,000 for fiscal year 1984 for the Environmental Protection Agency's research and development program. This funding level approximates the level of the fiscal year 1982 appropriation, plus 5 percent inflation factor. This is a $95,000,000 increase over the budget request for fiscal year 1984. The Committee does not intend the Senate to act on this legislation until substantive amendments to this bill have been reported by the Committee later this year.

During the past two years, the President's budget request for environmental research and development at EPA has been severely decreased. Of all the programs at EPA, the research program has sustained the deepest cuts. While these reductions may not have immediate effects, they will eventually diminish the Agency's ability to set standards and regulations mandated by statute.

The fiscal year 1984 budget request for research and development activities at EPA is $205.5 million, a 33.9 percent decrease from the fiscal year 1982 level and a 46.7 percent decrease from the fiscal year 1981 level. The Committee is concerned about the significant reductions in the research program and will conduct hearings on this program at an early date on the need for and nature of environmental research.

11-006 O

S323-15 BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The authorization of $300,000,000 is not broken down into specifific functional categories. The Committee intends, at an early date, to review the specific programs to determine the adequacy of EPA's proposed research program to meet the requirements of environmental statutes and to respond appropriately to emerging national environmental problems. Upon completion of this review, the Committee will recommend funding levels for the individual programs.

In years past, the environmental research and development program has been authorized on a yearly basis. This short-term authorization has resulted in uncertainties and shifts in emphasis in ongoing research activities, causing delays and loss of momentum. In view of the fact that research is a long-term activity, not one amenable to starts, stops, and shifts of direction, the Committee will explore the feasibility of multi-year authorization for EPA's research program.

Hearings

No hearings have been held on the fiscal year 1984 authorization of EPA's environmental research, development, and demonstration programs. Hearings will be held later this year on the focus and direction of these programs.

Rollcall Votes

Section 7(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires that any rollcall votes taken during consideration of the bill be announced in this report. On May 10, 1983, the Committee, by a voice vote, unanimously ordered reported the bill to authorize funding for EPA's environmental research, development, and demonstration programs. No rollcall votes were taken.

Evaluation of Regulatory Impacts

In compliance with section 11(b)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact of the reported bill.

The bill authorizes no new regulatory authority, removes no regulatory authority, and creates no new regulatory implications.

The bill has no impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

Cost of Legislation

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires each report to contain a statement of the cost of the reported legislation prepared by the Congressional Budget Office. That statement follows:

U.S. Congress,
Congressional Budget Office,
Washington, D.C., May 16, 1983.

Hon. Robert T. Stafford,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to Section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 194, the Congressional Budget Office has prepared the

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

attached revised cost estimate for Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1983.

Should the Committee so desire, we would be pleased to provide further details on this estimate.

Sincerely,

JAMES BLUM,
(For Alice M. Rivlin, Director).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE

MAY 16, 1983.

1. Bill number: Not yet assigned.

2. Bill title: Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1983.

3. Bill status: As ordered by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, May 10, 1983.

4. Bill purpose: This bill authorizes $300 million to be appropriated for fiscal year 1984 for the Environmental Protection Agency's research, development, and demonstration activities in ten specified program areas. Those areas are: air quality (incuding acid rain), water quality, drinking water, solid and hazardous waste (including Superfund), pesticide, radiation, interdisciplinary, toxic substance, energy and program management and support activities. The bill does not specify the allocation of the authorization among these activities.

The authorized amount is $71.3 million more than the $228.7 million appropriated for these activities for 1983 to date, and exceeds the President's 1984 budget request by $94.5 million.

5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

	Millions
Authorization level:	
Fiscal year:	
1984	$300
1985	----
1986	----
1987	----
1988	----
Estimated outlays:	
Fiscal year:	
1984	141
1985	87
1986	45
1987	18
1988	9

The costs of this bill fall within budget function 300.

Basis of estimate.—The authorization level is that stated in the bill, and is assumed to be appropriated in full prior to the start of fiscal year 1984. Outlays were estimated based on historical spending patterns for these programs.

6. Estimated cost to State and local governments: None.

7. Estimate comparison: None.

8. Previous CBO estimate: On May 12, 1983, CBO prepared a cost estimate for this bill that compared the amounts authorized in the bill to the 1983 appropriations to date and President's 1984 request for these programs, excluding Superfund and acid rain research. Based on information from the Committee staff, those comparisons

have been revised to reflect the inclusion of those two areas of research in the authorizations provided in this bill.

On May 10, 1983, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 2899, the House companion version of this bill. That bill authorized appropriations of $283.5 million for fiscal year 1984 and $297.7 million for fiscal year 1985 for the research programs included in the Senate bill.

9. Estimate prepared by: Anne E. Hoffman (226–2860).

10. Estimate approved by:

C. G. NUCKOLS,
(For James L. Blum,
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis).

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires publication of any changes made in existing law by the reported bill.

This bill makes no changes in existing law.

○